

**EAST CHINA CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS (TELEPHONIC PUBLIC MEETING)**

JUNE 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Simons at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL –

Present: Supervisor Larry Simons, Clerk Robert Freehan, Treasurer Donald Beaudua, Trustee Angelo Patsalis, Trustee Donald Horn, Trustee Deborah Babel, and Trustee Herbert Blackstock

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Township Manager Cynthia Paparelli

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Supervisor Simons

(ALL ACTIONS REQUIRE ROLL CALL VOTE)

APPROVE TENTATIVE AGENDA – Motion by Trustee Blackstock, supported by Trustee Patsalis to approve the tentative agenda with the addition of NB-7 2020 St. Clair County Road Commission Agreement and NB-8 Topographical Survey on Pointe Dr. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.

APPROVE MINUTES – Motion by Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Babel to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020 as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Blackstock, Babel, Horn, Patsalis, Beaudua, Freehan Simons. Nays – None. Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT -- None

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Horn to receive the following reports: April 2020 Park Commission Special Meeting Minutes; April 2020 St. Clair Area Fire Authority Run Report; March 2020 Revenue & Expenditure Report; April 2020 Revenue & Expenditure Report. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed

DISBURSEMENTS – Motion by Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Babel to approve payment of Invoices in the amount of \$ 9,982.86, Accounts Payable of \$ 165,714.01, Payroll of \$ 27,214.32, EFT's of \$ 10,079.44, for Total Disbursements of \$ 212,990.63. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Blackstock, Babel, Horn, Patsalis, Beaudua, Freehan, Simons. Nays – None. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2020 Michigan Townships Association Membership Dues/Legal Defense Assessment. Motion by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Babel to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2020 Michigan Townships Association membership dues in the amount of \$5,815.58 and Legal Defense in the amount of \$174.47 for a total due of \$5,990.05. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes -- Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.
2. Workers Compensation Fund Annual Policy. Motion by Trustee Patsalis, supported by Trustee Blackstock to approve MML Workers' Compensation Fund payment in the amount of \$10,320.00 for coverage from 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021. This is the amount due after a credit of \$9,576.00 from the

previous year based upon claims and performance. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Blackstock, Babel, Horn, Patsalis, Beaudua, Freehan, Simons. Nays – None. Motion passed.

3. Board & Commission future meetings. Motion by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Babel to cancel the meetings of the Historical Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission for the Month of June 2020 and to conduct the Township Board of Trustees June 15, 2020 meeting telephonically to be in compliance with the Governor’s Emergency Orders and Open Meetings Act because the Township Hall is closed to the public. The Parks Commission will hold their meeting on Zoom. Clerk Freehan will reach out to the Water and Sewer Authority to inform them that the Water Plant is closed to the public so any meetings would have to be held telephonically or outside with social distancing. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.
4. SVS Vision Benefit. Motion by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Babel to continue to offer the SVS Vision Plan coverage to full time employees as stated in the current agreement, with cost of plan covered by the Township; to continue to provide this optional reimbursed benefit to retirees, billing retirees monthly; to continue to provide this optional payroll deducted benefit to elected officials. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Blackstock, Babel, Horn, Patsalis, Beaudua, Freehan, Simons. Nays – None. Motion passed.
5. Resolution 9-2020 MERS payment authorization. Motion by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Patsalis to adopt Resolution 9 – 2020 as follows:

RESOLUTION 9 - 2020
MERS SPECIAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

East China Charter Township
County of Saint Clair, Michigan

Minutes of a regular telephonic meeting of the Township Board of Trustees of East China Township, County of St. Clair, Michigan, held in the Township Hall, on the 1st day of June 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Simons, Clerk Freehan, Treasurer Beaudua, Trustees Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock
ABSENT: None

The following Resolution was offered by Clerk Freehan, supported by Trustee Patsalis to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, East China Township has a contract with the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS); and

WHEREAS, under the collective bargaining agreement, the Township is required to make a one-time payment of \$75,000 within a reasonable time after ratification of the contract (April 6, 2020) and extra contributions of \$75,000 on or before December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021 to pay down unfunded accrued liability of the MERS Pension Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East China Board of Trustees hereby approves a payment of \$75,000 to MERS to be applied to the Township's portion of employee retirement plan costs and Surplus Account.

AYES: Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Robert Freehan, Clerk
East China Charter Township

Motion passed.

6. Pointe Dr. Lift Station wet well. Motion by Trustee Horn, supported by Trustee Blackstock to approve a payment to DVM Utilities, Inc. in the amount of \$1,250 for leak sealing the Point Drive lift station with 5 gallons of Avanti AV-202 Chemical grout. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.
7. St. Clair County Road Commission Cost Sharing Match Program. Motion by Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Patsalis to:
 - 1) Authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the 2020 St. Clair County Road Commission 80/20 Cost sharing Limestone Match Program with the East China Township match amount of \$5,000 for rubber crack fill and seal patch on various hard surface roads;
 - 2) Authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the 2020 St. Clair County Road Commission agreement for swath mowing along local roads in the amount of \$1,476 – a 50/50 match program project;
 - 3) Authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the 2020 St. Clair County Road Commission agreement for chloride application on local roads in the amount of \$3,600 – a 50/50 match program project;
 - 4) Authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the 2020 St. Clair County Road Commission agreement for shoulder patch along local roads in the amount of \$5,000 – a 50/50 match program project.ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Blackstock, Babel, Horn, Patsalis, Beaudua, Freehan, Simons. Nays – None. Motion passed.
8. Pointe Drive Topographical Survey. The St. Clair County Road Commission has required a topographical survey of the five bore pit locations along Pointe Drive as a condition for approval of the force main construction. Motion by Trustee Horn, supported by Trustee Blackstock to approve production of a topographical survey for the Pointe Drive force main bore pit locations by Project Control Engineering, Inc. at a cost of \$3,620. This is approximately half the cost of the original estimate which include a topographical survey of the entire length of the forcemain. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Supervisor Simons said that the Township Buildings remain closed to the public because of the covid-19 restrictions. He also said work had started on the sewer lift stations and forcemains.

Township Manager Paparelli asked for Board input to the draft procedures she had prepared for the Township's "Government Restart" which impact employees as well as the public. The procedures are designed to implement and localize the governor's covid-19 "stay safe" emergency orders as they relate to essential workers and public building.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Freehan said that the Township had mailed almost 1,000 absentee ballot applications to registered voters on the permanent absentee voter list and that the Secretary of State was supposedly mailing similar applications to those registered voters not on the permanent list. He encourage registered voters to consider the absentee ballot option because covid-19 restrictions will likely require social distancing and masks for in person voting in August for both voters and election inspectors which will make the lines longer and the in-person voting process slower.

Treasurer Beaudua said he didn't think the emergency weather sirens were loud enough and some may not be working properly. The Supervisor said that the county emergency management is reviewing the siren situation.

Trustee Horn asked which agency has jurisdiction over the "no wake" situation on the river with the high-water conditions. The Sheriff's Marine Patrol can issue citations but Canada has no "no wake" zones in place and the U.S. Coast Guard is only infrequently involved in patrolling.

Trustees Babel and Blackstock encouraged everyone to stay safe during the covid-19 health crisis.

Supervisor Simons said water levels in the St. Clair River had not reached maximum although this year's predictions for levels was now lower than the originally predicted levels.

ADJOURN – Motion by Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Babel to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes – Simons, Freehan, Beaudua, Patsalis, Horn, Babel, Blackstock. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Larry Simons, Supervisor

Robert Freehan, Clerk